

What is Claimed:

1. An ambient condition detector comprising:
at least one ambient condition sensor;
control circuitry coupled to the sensor for receiving electrical
5 signals therefrom indicative of a sensed condition, and for determining the existence
of a predetermined alarm condition;
voice output circuitry, coupled to the control circuitry, wherein
the control circuitry, in response to a selected signal, couples at least one of sensor
related parametric value information, and, detector status information to the voice
10 output circuitry for audible output as human discernable speech; and
a radiant energy receiving port, coupled to the control circuitry
for receiving radiant energy from a remote source and for generating the selected signal
in response thereto.
2. A detector as in claim 1 wherein the sensor is one of a gas
15 sensor, a heat sensor, a humidity sensor, and a smoke sensor.
3. A detector as in claim 1 which includes a second, different
sensor coupled to the control circuitry.
4. A detector as in claim 1 which includes circuits for specifying
a detector installation location in response to received radiant energy signals.
- 20 5. A detector as in claim 4 which includes circuitry, coupled to the
voice output circuitry for producing an audible, location confirming output as human
discernable speech.
6. A detector as in claim 4 wherein detector status information is
selected from a class which includes battery status, sensor status, and control circuitry
25 status.
7. A detector as in claim 4 which includes a housing which defines
an internal volume wherein the at least one sensor, the control circuitry and the voice
output circuitry are carried.

8. A detector as in claim 4 which includes circuitry, coupled to the voice output circuitry, for emitting an alarm-type audible output as human discernable speech.

9. A detector as in claim 4 which includes circuitry, coupled to the voice output circuitry, for emitting an alarm location audible output as human discernable speech.

10. A speech oriented ambient condition detector comprising:
a housing;
at least two different ambient condition sensors carried by the housing;
circuitry for identifying housing location;
circuitry for receiving signals from the sensors and for ascertaining the presence of at least one predetermined alarm condition and for storing parametric information pertaining to status of at least one of a sensor, a battery condition, and circuit condition; and
voice circuitry for generating human discernable speech output of at least housing location and numeric ambient condition information associated with one of the sensors.

11. A detector as in claim 10 which includes circuitry wherein the numeric ambient condition information can be verbalized in the absence of any alarm condition and in response to a selected condition.

12. A detector as in claim 11 wherein the selected condition comprises a selected, remotely generated radiant energy signal.

13. An ambient condition detector comprising:
at least one ambient condition sensor;
a voice output element, coupled to the control circuitry for providing user induced, non-alarm, verbal, monitoring outputs.

14. A detector as in claim 13 wherein the voice output element includes storage of ambient condition, non-alarm, monitoring messages.
15. A detector as in claim 13 wherein the control circuitry includes a signal line, coupled to the control circuitry, for conveying a user induced, verbal
5 output initiating signal thereto.
16. A detector as in claim 15 wherein an electronic switch is coupled to the signal line.
17. A monitoring process comprising:
sensing at least one ambient condition in a selected region;
10 establishing the presence of a predetermined alarm state local to the selected region;
monitoring at least one selected non-alarm parameter local to the selected region;
sensing a user induced command signal;
15 responsive to the command signal, and in the absence of an alarm state, verbally outputting information pertaining to the monitored parameter.
18. A process as in claim 17 which includes monitoring at least one of a power source and a sensor of the ambient condition.
19. A process as in claim 18 which includes sensing a second
20 ambient condition.
20. A process as in claim 19 which includes monitoring at least one of a power source, a sensor of the ambient condition and a sensor of the second ambient condition.
21. A process as in claim 20 which includes providing a partially
25 bounded region as the selected region.
22. A process as in claim 21 which includes originating the verbally output information from within the region.